

Manuel E. Coffill Rivera
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EDUCATION

Florida Gulf Coast University, *Bachelor of Science Degree in Marine Science; Minors in Biology & Geology (Fall 2014 - Spring 2017)*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission *Port Charlotte, Fl February 2019 – present*

- Participate in data collection and species identification for Florida's Fisheries-Independent Monitoring Program to evaluate abundance, growth, and health of inshore fish stocks. Collection of data during field sampling as well as entering, proofing, and correcting collected data following FWC QA/QC standards. Fish identification performed using dichotomous keys. Work-ups performed in lab include collection of otolith and mercury samples. Training as principle investigator in field setting, including operation of small watercraft, navigation, sample site selection as well as following established procedures for gear deployment. Assist in sawfish research study including acoustic tracking, specialized gear deployment, and fish tagging.
- Experience with elasmobranch fishes (sharks and rays) comes from the FWC Smalltooth Sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*) Project (funded through Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act [ESA]). I currently assist with sampling for sawfish with FWC under ESA permits #21043. Since its inception, the FWC's sawfish research program has captured, tagged, and released over 500 Smalltooth Sawfish; I have participated in several of these captures and have experience with all capture methods authorized under the permit (i.e., gill nets, seines, hook and line, longline); I have been trained in all tagging and sampling techniques authorized under the permit (e.g., genetic sampling, PIT tag application, rototag tag application, acoustic tag application), including completion of the NMFS sea turtle training (1 & 2 February 2018).

PRE-PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Marine Science Center – *Ponce Inlet, Fl June 2018 – February 2019*

Volunteered with animal husbandry (sea turtles, freshwater turtles, and gopher tortoises) by netting and scrubbing pools, food prep and feedings, cleaning outdoor habitats, general washing and sanitizing

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission – *Port Charlotte, Fl January 2017 – April 2017*

Volunteered with assisting fish and wildlife biologists in deploying trawl nets and seine nets to estimate fish abundance and population trends

FGCU Vester Marine and Environmental Science Research Field Station – *Bonita Springs, Fl January 2015 – May 2015*

Examining how salinity levels affect invasive island apple snail (*Pomacea insularum*), & examining how salinity and grazing affect tape grass (*Vallisneria spiralis*)